FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FRG OFFICIAL MEETS WITH VIDELA ON ATUCHA 2

PY201833 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1512 GMT 19 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (NA)--FRG Foreign Affairs Minister Gunther Van Well [as received] said today that the Atucha 2 nuclear plant program is very "important." He added that if it is carried out "it will play a highly important role in the bilateral relations of our two countries." Van Well made this statement upon his departure from Government House, where he held a meeting with Argentine President Jorge Videla.

This was the first of a series of meetings that Van Well is supposed to hold with Argentine officials with whom he must discuss why the FRG Government has refused to grant the necessary endorsement for an FRG enterprise to export a nuclear reactor for Atucha 2.

Van Well is scheduled to have a meeting next Friday with Vice Adm Carlos Castro Madero, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission, who is responsible for the implementation of the nuclear policy ordered by the Argentine Government. There is also the possibility that either today or tomorrow he will hold a meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor. He said that this would be a "protocol visit" but that they would discuss the Argentine position of not accepting any other safeguards for the use of the reactor other than those established by the International Atomic Energy Agency or those safeguards regarding the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

Van Well today visited government house with FRG Ambassador Joaquim Jaenicke [as received] and Argentine Ambassador Roberto Guyer.

PASTOR DISCUSSES FRG REACTOR, TRIPS ABROAD

PY201859 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0002 GMT 20 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Posadas, Misiones, 19 Mar (NA)--Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor told the press here today that he hopes the FRG will review its refusal to approve the shipment to Argentina of a reactor for the Atucha 2 nuclear plant.

Pastor, who today visited the Argentine-Paraguayan Yacyreta dam in the provinces of Corrientes and Misiones, held a brief press conference before leaving for the federal capital. First, he expressed satisfaction over the "most favorable credits obtained for Yacyreta," which he attributed to "the respect won by Argentina throughout the world because of the peace and order prevailing here."

Asked about the negotiation with the FRG aimed at obtaining the government's approval to export a nuclear reactor, the foreign minister voiced his belief that the negotiations "would yield the expected results."

He emphasized: "Germany promised to sell nuclear reactors to Argentina in order to allow us to complete our facilities, and we have maintained our offer and terms. Now we hope that they will be responsible enough to review their attitude."

He concluded by saying that he will accompany President Jorge Videla during his trip to the PRC scheduled for June and that he had planned to visit South Africa and the Arab countries during this year.

He said "I will also head the Argentine delegation which will travel to Yugoslavia if Tito's illness leads to his death."

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. VIEWS BILATERAL RELATIONS

PY201349 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpts] Jorge Aja Espil, Argentine ambassador to the United States, returned yesterday to Argentina. During a talk with journalists the ambassador said he believes there is a new dynamic in the relations between the two countries. He said that this is shown by the U.S. missions that have recently visited Argentina, particularly the one headed by General Goodpaster that established a system of permanent consultation. Aja Espil noted that these consultations are not only carried out through the usual embassy channels but also through high-level missions. He said that these missions open up new channels of communication and understanding.

Ambassador Aja Espil noted the importance of the Goodpaster mission and also the mission headed by the U.S. under secretary of commerce.

Asked about Argentine-U.S. trade and the deficit of the Argentine trade, Ambassador Aja Espil said that the Argentine trade deficit is perfectly explainable since Argentina is undergoing an industrial reorganization stage and, furthermore, the Argentine peso-dollar exchange rate enables Argentines to turn to the U.S. market.

GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS OPPOSITION TO GRAIN BOYCOTT OF USSR

PY201851 Paris AFP in Spanish 0509 GMT 20 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (AFP)--Argentine Agriculture and Livestock Secretary Jorge Zorreguieta has stated that there are no restrictions on shipping 2 million tons of corn to the Soviet Union.

In a statement released before leaving for Europe, the government official indicated that "Argentina has not changed its position regarding the grain boycott against the USSR."

Zorreguieta said: "This is a country of free trade, where demand and supply determine the final destination of the goods."

INTERIOR MINISTER CLARIFIES INTENTION TO RESIGN

FY210157 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 80 FY

[Text] Interior Minister Jorge Selum Vaca Diez indicated that there are interest groups that want him out of the national cabinet and that they have even given him a date and hour for submitting his resignation.

Selum, annoyed by some remarks printed in a local newspaper, said that he had talked about a possible resignation but that he had never mentioned a date. Selum said that it is obvious that I intend to resign, but I must first solve several problems entrusted to me by the government. When I decide to resign I will announce it publicly to the national press.

The interior minister was questioned in the Chamber of Deputies last Wednesday by the Bolivian Socialist Falange bloc, FSB, [words indistinct] for ordering the arrest of some FSB members.

Selum was categorical when he said that the FSB members were arrested on common criminal charges; therefore they are now in the hands of the regular courts. Minister Selum denied that innocent people or politicians had been arrested and that any of them had been tortured. He said that, on the contrary, in this democratic constitutional government there is respect for human rights and that people are not persecuted or arrested for advocating ideas contrary to those of the government.

Selum declared that there are sectors interested in creating instability in the democratic process to allow the return of de facto antipopular and antidemocratic governments.

SOVIET EXPERTS TRAIN MINERS ON EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

FY201826 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Mar 80 FY

[Excerpts] In recent years, the Bolivian Mining Bank has purchased from several Soviet enterprises mining equipment designed to complete or to further the mechanization of 62 enterprises.

Today, more than (?30) percent of the Soviet equipment has been purchased by owners of small mines. Some equipment is also being used by state-owned and private enterprises.

To improve maintenance services for the Soviet equipment in view of the growing demand, executives of the Mining Bank have asked experts of the USSR trade mission for their cooperation in training a team of employees of the bank. A 3-month theoretical-practical course is already underway at the Mining Bank store in La Paz on the proper maintenance of the Soviet equipment.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR OFFERS TROLLEY BUSES FOR LA PAZ

FY201824 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 80 FY

[Excerpt] Through its diplomatic representative, the Soviet Union has made official an offer to install a trolley bus to complement the urban transport system in La Paz. Soviet Ambassador Boris Kazantsev extended this offer during a visit made to Bolivian Transportation Minister Hugo Velasco. I hope this project will not be limited to La Paz, but extended to the cities of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba as well, the ambassador said.

STRIKING SANTOS DOCKWORKERS REJECT WAGE OFFER

PY201420 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Santos longshoremen have rejected by acclamation a Docas Company counterproposal. Consequently, the strike, now in its fourth day, will continue.

The workers persist in their demand for a 3,300-cruzeiro increase as a productivity bonus, while the employer's counterproposal--which was regarded as difficult to understand because of its technical wording--would grant the workers a 2,000-cruzeiro increase.

In the meantime, coffee bags continue to pile up at the Santos port. Nearly 100,000 bags have been unloaded daily, bringing the total to date to 2.1 million bags. Santos shipping officials have reported that the strike has already caused losses estimated at $1.5 million, without including the expenses of ships waiting in the port.

ITAMARATY OFFICIAL JOINS NEGOTIATIONS IN BOGOTA

PY201749 Paris AFP in Spanish 2148 GMT 19 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 19 Mar (AFP)--It was reported here today that a Brazilian diplomat has been authorized to join the coordinating committee which is negotiating before the Colombian Government the freedom of the diplomats who are being held hostage at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota.

This information was released by Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernardo Pericas, who added that Ambassador Orlando Soares Carbonal, chief of staff of the Foreign Ministry, will be Brazil's representative on the committee. Carbonal is already in the Colombian capital.

FUEL ELEMENTS FOR PWR CAN NOW BE MADE DOMESTICALLY

PY201635 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Mar 80 p 27 PY

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo--The fuel elements for the PWR [pressurized water reactor] nuclear reactors of Angra can now be produced in Brazil, thus avoiding the need to import them. The center for nuclear metallurgy of the IPEN (Institute for Energy and Nuclear Research) of Sao Paulo is currently involved in the last stage of research into the development of a technology for manufacturing these fuel elements.

The center for nuclear metallurgy has been producing the pellets with nuclear-pure [nuclearmente puros] uranium which is still not enriched, but it already has the technology to use radioactive uranium [sentence as published]. The pellets are the active part of the fuel element, and the development process involves the compression of uranium oxide, thermal treatment to enrich the pellets, followed by burning in an oven to make the pellets resistant. This technology will be used at the fuel elements factory which NUCLEBRAS [Brazilian Nuclear Corporation] will build in Resende, Rio de Janeiro State.

IPEN's superintendent remarked that the use of Brazilian technology will give rise to a considerable savings of foreign currency and indicated that it is very important for the country to develop locally every phase of the nuclear cycle. In the meantime, zircaloy tubes will have to be imported because so far it is not worthwhile to produce them locally.

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NUCLEBRAS LAYS OFF 400 EMPLOYEES WITHOUT EXPLANATION

PY210213 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Mar 80 p 34 PY

[Excerpts] On Monday NUCLEBRAS dismissed 400 of its 2,680 employees. Most of the dismissed personnel are low-ranking employees, but some of them are engineers and geologists. The company refuses to officially confirm or deny the dismissals, and it has issued orders to keep other employees from talking about them.

At the industrial complex in Pocos de Caldas (uranium processing plant) 171 employees were fired, in addition to 150 geologists and other personnel of the mineral resources directorate.

Pocos de Caldas, one of the facilities most affected by the dismissals, was supposed to go into operation in 1980, but this has now been postponed until 1981. Its continued construction is running into problems because of a decision made by NUCLEBRAS 3 months ago to suspend all new purchases and service contracts.

NUCLEBRAS has not issued a decree identifying the employees to be fired. They are just called one by one into the office of the administration and resources general superintendency and informed of their dismissals.

FOREIGN DEBT INTEREST TO BE HIGHER THAN ESTIMATED

PY201402 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Mar 80 PY

[Carlos Rodrigues report from Brasilia]

[Text] Finance Minister Ernane Galveas conceded yesterday that the amount required for payment of interest on the country's foreign debt will be higher than estimated. He noted that earlier estimates were based on an average interest rate of 14.25 percent on the Eurodollar market, where the interest rate now reaches 25 percent. The interest to be paid on our foreign debt was originally estimated at $5.7 billion, that is, more than 260 billion cruzeiros.

LABOR PARTY OPPOSES OPPOSITION ALLIANCE

PY201551 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Mar 80 PY

[(Alfonso Fabri) report from Brasilia]

[Excerpt] The opposition's dim hopes of getting the Lobao Amendment--designed to restore direct election of state governors in 1982--approved by the Chamber of Deputies have virtually vanished as the Brazilian Labor Party [PTB] yesterday rejected the Popular Party [PP] proposal to set up an alliance of opposition groups--a proposal which had already been accepted by the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party.

PTB leader Deputy Alceu Collares said yesterday that his party definitely does not accept the PP proposal. He conceded, however, that an interparty front may be formed in extreme cases. Therefore, it is almost certain that the Lobao Amendment will be rejected both in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, since the Social Democratic Party has a majority in the Senate.

ERCILLA INTERVIEWS MATTHEI ON POLITICAL SITUATION

PY201719 Santiago Chile ERCILLA in Spanish 18 Mar 80 pp 28-31 PY

[Undated interview with Chilean Air Force Commander Fernando Matthei Aubel at his home in Santiago]

[Excerpts] [Question] People speak of "hardliners" and "liberals" [aperturistas] within the government. With which of these groups do you identify yourself?

[Answer] I honestly do not know any "hardliners." Believe me, there are no hardliners among my people. We are all convinced that we will carry out the political plan that the president has announced.

[Question] Do you believe that there has been enough civilian participation in government programs?

[Answer] I can assure you that there is close cooperation between civilians and the military in this government. I believe that civilians are better prepared, that they have the necessary political, economic, and international knowledge and that they have contributed greatly to the progress this government has achieved. To tell the truth, they have been the real makers in this work. But in all fairness it must be said that they could not have done anything without the understanding of the president.

[Question] What do you believe is the most difficult area the government had to move in?

[Answer] I believe a true effort to solve social problems, something which has not been easy, is being made.

[Question] Undoubtedly one of the things citizens are most concerned about is the possible "perpetuation" of the military sector in power and--why not say it--particularly of President Pinochet.

[Answer] I believe that there is a need to define the Constitution and the transition period. If before there was a time in which it was beneficial to say there are no deadlines, today this is not the case. On the contrary, it is necessary, highly necessary, to establish deadlines. We have no intention of perpetuating ourselves in power. The ideal thing would be basically to have a change of leadership without a change of system.

[Question] Does President Pinochet share this point of view?

[Answer] I honestly and quite frankly believe that the president is fulfilling his duty. He has a lot to do. He was able to take Chine out of the unjust place that it had fallen to after many years of a "mediocre democracy" [mediocracia] rather than a democracy. I believe that the president more than perpetuating himself in power wants to serve the country. What I am certain of is that the phases that he established at Chacarillas will be rigorously fulfilled. He is a man that keeps his word.

The important thing is to create an alternative, because if we do not have one the president cannot leave power, since he would be exposing the country to chaos and anarchy. It is the civilians who have to do something about this. They must look for, prepare, and propose people who will be able to continue with the great task that has been undertaken. You must look for leaders.

[Question] During a press conference held in October 1979 you said that "the Constitution is a political act, and that is why I believe it is less important."

[Answer] I do not believe that is quite what I said. At any rate, it depends on the context in which I said it. What I believe is that the essence of political power is more important than its form. I am not a theoretician of doctrines. I am not made that way. I am, therefore, concerned with things I understand. Let the others look for the form, which undoubtedly is very important. We must not forget that it is imperative to have the citizens' consensus.

[Question] Could you tell us what will happen in the hypothetical case that President Pinochet is unable to continue his term? Are there existing mechanisms for the succession of power?

[Answer] This problem has not been solved. Up to now we are still ruled by Decree No. 527. I would suggest a change, however--for example to appoint an interior minister who may eventually be able to assume executive functions. I believe this is an important issue that must be solved.

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT REJECTS DEVALUATION

PY201459 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpts] The president of the Chilean Central Bank has rejected any possibility of a devaluation. He said that to obtain a lower inflation rate, we would have to revalue the peso, which would mean that the U.S. dollar would cost less than its current exchange rate of 39 pesos. Alvaro Bardon indicated that the dollar will probably continue at the present exchange rate.

He made these remarks during a seminar held at the Sheraton Hotel. He also said that the commercial opening toward foreign markets will take place this year. This means that advance deposits will be reduced or eliminated and banks will be allowed to give loans in U.S. dollars.

He concluded by stating that it is expected that the balance of payments will show a $1-billion surplus.

BRIEFS

ECUADOREAN OIL--The Chilean ambassador to Ecuador, Leonidas Irarrazabal [name as received] has stated that the sale of Ecuadorean oil to Chile continues despite the campaign by former members of the Popular Unity. Ecuador is currently selling Chile 15,000 barrels of oil daily. This respresents from 15 to 20 percent of Chilean oil imports. [Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0657 GMT 15 Mar 80 PY]

IVORY COAST DELEGATION--The first Ivory Coast delegation to visit Chile has arrived to discuss subjects related to energy generation. The visiting delegation is headed by the director general of electrical energy of the Ivory Coast, (Ano Ko Tua). The mission will seek Chilean cooperation in the field of power generation technology and rural distribution. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY]

AUTO PRODUCTION INCREASES--Since the renegotiation of the car construction code, the national production of the cars has been constantly increasing. In January and February of this year, 2,928 units were assembled. This represents a 23.7-percent increase over the same months of last year. The most productive plant was Peugeot-Renault with 988 units. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY]

REPORTAGE ON DOMINICAN EMBASSY IMPASSE

Talks Resume 24 Mar

PA210104 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[By Oscar Dominguez]

[Text] The dialog between the Colombian Government and the 19 April Movement [M-19] group occupying the Dominican Embassy will be resumed at 1430 on 24 March with no conditions on the part of the embassy's occupants, Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas disclosed tonight. The conversations were abruptly interrupted 8 days ago after five rounds of negotiations.

The resumption of the dialog was made possible by a request made by the hostages to Commander Uno, Uribe Vargas admitted. He disclosed this at the end of a meeting in San Carlos Palace with representatives of 15 countries which have hostages in the embassy. A spokesman for the ambassadors said that the dialog was frank and sincere and that President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala reiterated the position that the problem must be solved according to the law and without damaging the nation's dignity.

The president had previously been visited by six members of the Liberal Party National Directorate, who handed him a note supporting his position regarding the demands of the M-19.

The resumption of the dialog, which had been suspended for 8 days, was made possible thanks to the conversations between Foreign Minister Uribe Vargas and Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan. Galan is the coordinator of the group of hostages at the embassy and he has participated in all five rounds of talks in which neither side changed their demands. Uribe Vargas explained that it was the hostages who asked Commander Uno to resume the dialog. He agreed to their demand unconditionally, Foreign Minister Uribe Vargas indicated.

U.S. Ambassador Interviewed

PA201611 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1414 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 20 Mar (EFE)--Diego Asencio, U.S. ambassador to Colombia, one of the M-19 hostages at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota during the past 22 days, sa'd in statements to the magazine CROMOS that the guerrilla demands are difficult, but that they have a point." [quotation marks as received] "I hope that some conclusion is reached since I do not see the negotiations as impossible," he said over the telephone to the above-mentioned Bogota weekly.

The U.S. ambassador told the magazine that on several occasions he has thought about dying in the occupied embassy and that on the day of the guerrilla attack he made the most sincere act of contrition of his life.

The diplomat, born in the Spanish province of Almeria, said that as a Spanish-Cuban he has always been fascinated with death and "if one thinks about it in this manner one feels no fear."

Referring to his talks with the guerrillas, he said that he understands their objectives thoroughly. "We have discussed their projects," he said "and I have explained our democracy to them, and although I have not convinced them yet, I hope to do so in a little more time."

Ambassador Asencio also said in his statements that he had not spoken to President Jimmy Carter, who has telephoned his wife. "I speak almost everyday with my wife, as well as with the embassy," he said.

When told that according to Commander Uno the government could release the prisoners without violating the Constitution, the U.S. diplomat said that this is the procedure being followed. "I believe that the government is seeking a legal solution," he said.

Finally he said that the guerrillas treat him with much respect and that a cordial attitude prevails. "We play dominoes a lot," he said, "and we are teaching Commander Uno...He knew something of the game, but now he is among experts and is learning."

Doctor, Nurse Enter Embassy

PA210324 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Mar 80 PA

[Text] A Red Cross doctor and nurse this afternoon entered the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, where there are at least four sick people among the hostages and guerrillas of the 19 April Movement.

Venezuelan Ambassador Virgilio Lovera has heart and ear problems while Consul Alfredo Tejeda has one leg in a cast.

U.S. MILITARY PLANE ARRIVES; EIGHT CIVILIANS DEBARK

PA210320 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 20 Mar (EFE)--A gigantic U.S. military airplane landed mysteriously early this morning at the international airport in Bogota. Aeronautics authorities have not yet given an explanation for its arrival.

Eight persons dressed in civilian clothing got out of the plane and into a car at El Dorado Airport, then left for the downtown area of the capital. The U.S. air Force plane took off for a base abroad. Sources at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota did not comment on the landing of the airplane, nor did the control tower at El Dorado, where there was complete secrecy.

The Information and Press Office of the presidential palace made no comment on the mysterious landing of the airplane and the presence in Bogota of the eight U.S. civilians.

15,000 TON ANNUAL MEAT SALE TO USSR EXPECTED

PA210231 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Colombia is making some amendments to a meat exporting agreement with the USSR. Colombian officials are very optimistic regarding the possibility of exporting 15,000 tons of meat annually, which will be priced at $2,200 per ton, to the USSR. Now it depends on the capacity of Colombian meatpacking houses to meet this demand. The meat industry directors are very happy with the possibility of exporting meat to the USSR, because the government grants an incentive equivalent to a 9 percent deduction on income tax to these exports.

ENERGY MINISTER OPPOSES U.S. OIL IMPORT TAX

PA201706 Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Quito, 20 Mar (AFP)--According to Ecuadorean Natural Resources and Energy Minister Jose Corsino Cardenas, the U.S. Government's decision to charge a $4.62 tax per barrel on imported oil might affect the amount of Ecuadorean oil exported to that country.

The minister voiced his concern over the adoption of this measure and expressed his hope that the U.S. Congress will approve as soon as possible laws annulling this import tax, which might create serious problems for small producers such as ours, he said.

According to Corsino Cardenas, the tax affects imports and will lead to a reduction in their volume. President Carter has said the reduction will amount to about 100,000 barrels per day.

According to official information, Ecuador exported about 35,000 barrels of oil per day to the United States through the direct-sales system, without including the indirect sales made through the Caribbean.

Therefore, Minister Cardenas explained, the U.S. Government's measure can be expected to affect somehow our crude oil exports due to our position as a marginal supplier in that market, despite the advantages that our oil offers as regards quality and geographic location.

The Ecuadorean minister hoped that the measure will only be temporary and that since the tax will be transferred to the consumer, it will not greatly affect the oil imports.

CUBAN ENVOY DISCUSSES FISHING FLEET ACTIVITIES

PA172005 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The Cuban Government will spend approximately $4 million for the installation of port facilities for the mooring and operations of [word indistinct] and repair of more than 20 fishing boats of a fleet which operates in the southern Pacific waters of the continent. This was learned after Cuban Ambassador Fernando Flores Ibarra visited the Guayaquil mayor's office in the past few days and told Mayor Antonio [name indistinct] about this.

The ambassador said that in many ways it has been more economic for the fleet to arrive in Guayaquil rather than to go to Panama, which is farther away and thus more time and money is spent on their transfer there. He also noted the development of the fishing industry in Cuba, which has produced trained personnel who could very well be used by Ecuador if it so desired. He said that in Cuba there is an excess of this personnel qualified in the various technical fields dealing with the fishing industry. He also said (?Cuban boats) fish outside the 200-mile zone of Ecuador, Peru and Chile. He said the boat captains have strict orders to obey this regulation to avoid any type of protests.

GOVERNMENT MINIMIZES EFFECT OF U.S. OIL IMPORT TAX

PA201635 Paris AFP in Spanish 1512 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Caracas, 20 Mar (AFP)--The Venezuelan Government has established its official stance in connection with the new tax on gasoline consumption announced by U.S. President Jimmy Carter last week and stated that this will not have a major effect on Venezuelan oil exports.

The minister of energy and mines believes that it is inadvisable and undesirable that the industralized countries systematically use an increase in a consumer tax on oil by-products as a basic way of obtaining revenue.

The Minister of Energy and Mines Humberto Calderon Berti pointed out that this could result in the price of these products being lower than their true value on the market and, in any event, it would have been preferable for the decision to be taken via the legislature and in the form of a direct tax on the sale of gasoline, since this would have avoided confusion by the U.S. public.

Calderon Berti said that U.S. consumers could link the increase in the cost of imports with some decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) when the truth would be exactly the opposite.

In the opinion of the Venezuelan Government, the measures announced by President Carter are aimed at diminishing U.S. inflation, balancing the economy and strengthening the dollar.

In another part of the declaration of the Ministry of Energy and Mines, it states that the duty fixed by the U.S. Government produces additional annual income amounting to $10 billion, which leads to the belief that the main purpose of the measure is to seek a balance in its budget, which has had a deficit in the past 12 years.

The report goes on to say that these measures will not have a major effect on our petroleum exports since exports to the U.S. market are based only on residual fuel, which has not been affected since the duty will only be applied to crudes and will be explicity reflected in the price of gasoline for the U.S. consumer.

Calderon Berti explained that the manner in which President Carter referred to the petroleum-producing countries, by not holding them responsbile for world inflation, means an important change with regard to previously made public statements and could be the basis for initiating a new era of relations between the consumer nations and petroleum exporters.

The Venezuelan Government also explained that this opinion is its own and in no way reflects the opinion of the OPEC, now presided over by Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines Humberto Calderon Berti.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR LAUDS FRIENDSHIP TIES, SOLIDARITY

PA201801 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 Mar 80 p 8-B PA

[Text] David--"The struggle of the people of Panama is the struggle of the people of Nicaragua. The solidarity which Panama offered and continues to offer our people is true solidarity, it is tangible solidarity," said the Nicaraguan ambassador to our country during a social event in his honor sponsored by Chiriqui Province chapter of the solidarity with Nicaragua committee at noon on 17 March at the Joron Internacional Bar on the airport highway.

Ambassador Marcos A. Valle said that he had been greatly impressed by the example of democracy shown by President Aristides Royo when he received his credentials as Nicaraguan ambassador during a government work session held on the island of San Blas. [as published]

The young Nicaraguan ambassador then acknowledged Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, whom he described as a champion of Panama's liberation struggle, which is also Nicaragua's liberation struggle.

Further emphasizing Nicaraguan-Panamanian friendship, he stated: "We both struggle for a new economic order; we belong to the nonalined. Nicaragua is requesting admittance to the Banana Marketing Corporation." Concluding, he said: "That is why when we are in Panama, we are in Nicaragua. The traffic police and the security police of Nicaragua are a Panamanian product of the National Guard. What more can you ask of a nation that, through the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade, has even given its life for the liberation of Nicaragua."

Raising his voice at the end of his statement, Ambassador Valle announced to the people of Panama that Nicaragua will teach 80,000 Nicaraguans to read and write.

MORE THAN 200 ANNOUNCERS' LICENSES CANCELED

PA200120 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 Mar 80 pp 1-A, 6-A PA

[Text] Through a resolution formulated this morning, the Government and Justice Ministry's communications media bureau canceled more than 200 commercial licenses for radio announcers.

According to reports given to LA REPUBLICA reporters by official sources, the decision to suspend the licenses was made because many had expired more than 6 months ago and some even 12 months ago.

According to current regulations governing the granting and use of licenses, they are to be issued every 4 years and have to be renewed within the time stipulated.

An authorized spokesman for the media bureau said this morning that many of the people whose licenses expired have been working illegally for local radio stations for a long time.

He added that the bureau will be unyielding as regards the announcers' licenses because such licenses are indispensable just as are driver's licenses.

COSTA RICA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON IAPA MEETING IN SAN JOSE

Delegates Criticize Press Limitations

PA191543 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1457 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] San Jose, 18 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Only one of the 180 delegates to the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) semiannaul meeting which began here yesterday has emphatically stated in his report: "There is freedom of the press in my country." The only delegate to do so was the Puerto Rican delegate.

The delegates of the rest of the countries of America, from Canada to Argentina and Chile, have made some criticism of the way in which journalism is conducted in the hemisphere. Representatives of countries such as the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands Antilles, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Canada have reported various obstacles to the exercise of journalism in complete freedom.

These obstacles are temporary and are established either through direct pressures of the government on the newsmen or through indirect pressures on the enterprises. These pressures are also conducted by imposing controls over the radio and television stations or by intervening in the supply of paper to the newspapers.

The discussion of freedom of expression by the participants at the IAPA meeting particularly centered on the attacks against the communications media in some countries of Central America, Argentina and several Caribbean countries, especially Cuba.

According to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, an editorial writer of the Nicaraguan newspaper LA PRENSA and a member of the family which owns the newspaper, the limitations on freedom of expression in Nicaragua come from certain members of the National Reconstruction Junta and the Union of Journalists of Nicaragua (UPN). Chamorro said the UPN acts with political rather than professional criterion to affiliate or disaffiliate journalists. He added that one cannot function as a journalist in Nicaragua without being a member of the UPN.

However, some foreign correspondents in Nicaragua told the IAPA that they have not found any special obstacles to exercise their journalistic mission.

Delegates of El Salvador said that as a result of the suspension of constitutional guarantees which was decreed on 5 March, newsmen face many obstacles.

Costa Rican Guido Fernandez, chairman of the IAPA Freedom of the Press Committee, read a brief report on Guatemala. He said that in Guatemala many journalists are intimidated and exercise self-censorship in view of the threats they receive from extremist groups. According to the report, Guatemalan newsmen received more than 40 threats against their lives in 1979.

Guatemalan delegate Mario David Garcia said the only limitations on freedom of the press in Guatemala are those imposed by uncontrolled extreme leftist groups. Garcia said that by politicizing their reports, some newsmen are undermining the foundations of democracy.

The Argentine delegates said freedom of expression is greatly limited their country and that most of the news media practice self-censorship. They said the Argentine Government harshly persecutes the newspapers which are not under its control by heavily taxing paper imports.

The report on the press in Cuba, which was read by exiled newsmen, was particularly bitter. The report included specific references to imprisoned newsmen and others who have recently left the country. The Fidel Castro regime was also accused of influencing the lack of freedom of the press in small Caribbean countries such as Trinidad, Grenada, Guyana, Dominica and Jamaica.

The IAPA meeting is being attended by more than 180 delegates of 1,050 communications media of the American Continent as well as delegates of the Spanish News Agency EFE and the Central American News Agency ACAN.

IAPA President Hits UNESCO

PA191409 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The president of the Inter-American Press Association [IAPA] said in his mid-year report that UNESCO's attempt to set international regulations on the communications media threatens the concept of freedom of information. He said it is evident that there are individuals in UNESCO who plan to insist on this until the socialist countries and some of the Third World achieve their objectives. He said they want UNESCO to approve [words indistinct] which affect the control of the state over the news media.

The IAPA president added that the UNESCO's project to set international regulations on the communications media is not directed at improving communications. Instead, it seeks to establish control over the communications media. IAPA President George [name indistinct] said there is clear proof of this objective. He added that it must be recognized that the current system of information needs a better balance [equilibrio] but the IAPA cannot accept the radical proposal of its adversaries.

In his report at the National Theater the IAPA president said UNESCO contradicts itself. On the one hand UNESCO says the pressures for a new communications order are coming from its members while on the other hand, the UNESCO Secretariat is involved in a dispute over the degree of intervention UNESCO should hvae in the communications media. Frankly, it is already intervening, the IAPA president added.

11 Countries Singled-Out

PA202019 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Edgar Arce report on IAPA meeting]

[Excerpt] The meeting of the Board of Directors is about to end. The resolutions issued at this biyearly meeting now being held here in Costa Rica have already been released.

Eleven nations of America have received some sort of sanction, recommendation or warning from the Inter-American Press Association [IAPA]. These countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

At the meeting, the IAPA also said it opposed plans for a UNESCO-proposed institute to control and supervise the development of world communications.

The IAPA has also made a statement on the Inter-American Human Rights Court, agreeing to voice support for this new medium for protecting newsmen who are subject to human rights violations. To this end, the IAPA decided to instruct the main office of the IAPA to prepare articles on the cases that call for speedy solution.

EL SALVADOR

COLUMNIST ANALYZES U.S. ENVOY WHITE'S APPOINTMENT

PA210242 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 Mar 80 pp 7, 17 PA

[First part of Rafael Asbun article: "Analysis of the Helms-White Issue"--passages in capitals published in boldface]

[Text] Much has been said in international newspapers about the U.S. President's decision to appoint Robert E. White ambassador to our country. The appointment was opposed by a group of U.S. congressmen, among them Senator Jesse Helms, a member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Much comment has been generated throughout the world and particularly in the United States in relation to White's appointment. However, as it is being paradoxically discussed by the Inter-American Press Association meeting in Costa Rica, the only country which has sort of shelved the issue or kept it very quiet is precisely El Salvador which has made no comment either in favor or against the appointment.

Everything we have read on this issue has been very emotional: some praise the virtues of Ambassador White and deprecate Senator Helms; others do just the opposite. After following the debates in the Senate, an objective analysis throws a favorable light on both of these U.S. political figures; one is a senator who well knows the objectives by Marxism and who does not beat around the bush in denouncing them; and the other is an intelligent ambassador who has received a one-sided view of a country which has been pictured as just coming out of the Middle Ages. His answers, however, show that he is intelligent enough to hope that he can find formulas that will not hurt our nationalism, which in any event would only benefit communism, inasmuch as Salvadorans by nature are poor but proud, and would like to solve their problems "the Salvadoran way."

Ours is a nationalism with flaws but free of any paternalism. Foreigners much realize that Central America's independence from Spain had its origin in El Salvador and if we struggled for it then, we are not going to give it up now.

I have two very interesting documents. One is the questioning of Robert E. White by Senator Helms on 8 February. The other is a letter that Ambassador White addressed to Senator Helms on 18 February adding to his answers. Both doucments show interesting aspects of a debate which is important to El Salvador.

The first question is on Nicaragua which is an inevitable subject when referring to Central America. Translated into Spanish the question reads as follows:

1A. Helms: "Do you think that the siutation in El Salvador has deteriorated to such a point that it is very unlikely to prevent a situation such as the one in Nicaragua?"

1B. White: "It can be deceiving to make direct comparisons between Nicaragua and El Salvador. ALTHOUGH THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR IS SERIOUS, THERE STILL IS HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN SUCCEED AND PREVENT A CIVIL WAR. I am sure that this is what the majority of Salvadorans want. Only time will tell if they have succeeded. Fundamental decisions must be made by Salvadorans, of course. Our role can only be peripheral but nonetheless important. I am confident that the U.S. Government is willing to help to obtain a peaceful and democratic solution that will assist the Salvadoran people to find the real path of self-determination."

2A. Helms: "In your opinion, what steps should be taken to prevent this situation?"

2B. White: TO PREVENT A CIVIL WAR IN EL SALVADOR IT IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC AID TO THAT COUNTRY. The present government must have substantial security so that it can have enough time to implement its program of transformation and can build a broad political foundation."

We would like to analyze these two questions and their answers.

Unfortunately, this is not the best time to give opinions and make commentaries regarding the position of Senator Helms and the views of Ambassador White since we are living under a state of siege. I have, however, put in upper case everything related to the "civil war" mentioned by Ambassador White because it is the same thesis on which the Christian Democratic Party bases its policy: "either our reform or the civil war."

On 14 February Senator Helms addressed a letter to Ambassador White in which he asks him about the "civil war:" "DO YOU BELIEVE A CIVIL WAR CAN BE PREVENTED? WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT SEMANTICS, IT IS FUNDAMENTAL, I THINK, THAT ANY ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION MUST CONSIDER THE FACT THAT EL SALVADOR FOR MANY MONTHS HAS BEEN IN A STATE OF CIVIL WAR."

This letter dated 14 February and the one which Ambassador White answered 4 days later, in my opinion, deserves a more careful and thorough analysis.

Article Continues

PA210243 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 80 pp 7, 11 PA

[Second part of article by Rafael Asbun: "The U.S. Role in Relation to Trotskiyism"--passages in capitals published in boldface; no mention made that this is the last part of the articles]

[Text] Before continuing with my analysis of the questions by U.S. Senator Jesse Helms and the answers by U.S. Ambassador Robert White [concerning Robert White's appointment as U.S. ambassador to El Salvador], I want to explain that they both said the ultraleftwing adhered to Trotskiyism. It is the Soviet Union itself which constantly claims that it is impossible to control the type of conduct inherent in Trotskiyism, which Lenin, one of the forefathers of Marxism, described as "a child's disease of communism."

From a doctrinal point of view, it is most important to know that according to the Marxist-Leninist thesis the Trotskiyists are passionate [apasionado]. In the words of the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador the term "passionate" has a different semantic meaning which must be taken into account to avoid errors of appreciation.

Let us, then, continue looking at the Helms-White dialog:

3A. Helms: "What can the United States do to prevent the extreme leftwing from gaining power in El Salvador?"

3B. White: "In this case at least, I suppose the term 'Extreme leftwing' means the group that is trying to impose a totalitarian dictatorship according, for example, to the Cuban model. I would differentiate such leftists from the other passionate leftists who demand profound political, economic and social changes, but who also are sincerely in favor of A COMPLETE PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, FREE PRESS, HONEST ELECTIONS, ETC. I believe the Salvadoran people are hoping to control their own future rather than trusting it to a small group of leftists or rightists ruling under a tightly controlled dictatorship. Again the basic issues which El Salvador is facing must be decided by the Salvadorans themselves, NOT THROUGH EXTERNAL INTERVENTION. I believe that the more effective we and others are in providing aid and cooperation to the democratic Salvadorans for a PEACEFUL CHANGE the less opportunity there will be for those seeking to impose a leftwing or rightwing dictatorship."

There is no doubt that this answer reveals a prepared, intelligent and farsighted ambassador but, as I said in a previous commentary, this is only a partially informed answer.

White refers to the "extreme leftwing" which to him is not actually the ultraleft or the Trotskiyites, but every member of the Communist Party. That is, he is correct when he feels any group which may try to establish a Cuban model in the country should be rejected. And I believe that no Salvadoran would disagree with his definition of "passionate leftists" as those who want freedom of expression or honest elections. For a very long time, although paradoxical, perhaps due to the complex of guilt created among the armed forces, the military governments have always respected freedom of the press. It is the civilians in the present government who seem "upset" with freedom of the press, and Decree No 67 is harmful to the existence of freedom of expression guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as in the 1962 political constitution; in effect, it is harmful to whatever is not opposed to the nature of the present regime. With the state of siege and prior to it, with the radio networks, there is a manifest violation of freedom of expression and even freedom of enterprise.

We sincerely believe that if the members of the junta cannot be called "ultraleftists" or "extreme leftwing," as the U.S. ambassador sees it, they can neither be considered "passionate leftists" because they do not favor freedom of expression. Elsewhere, the recent statements of the governing junta reveal a reticence in postponing the elections indefinitely. In the legal profession there is an aphorism which states that if justice is not prompt or expeditious, it is injustice. Honest elections mean holding them at the proper time or else they will not be honest.

Of all the political parties that have made public statements since 15 October 1979, all, absolutely all, including the one now in power, have referred to elections.

In a recent exposition in Costa Rica, at the IAPA conference, Eng Alfonso Robelo, member of the Nicaraguan reconstruction government, offered elections for 1981 "even though they may be for mayors."

Here the situation is more serious: to elect a constituent assembly that will determine the conduct of the government. This is not only important as a democratic exercise, but to institutionalize national life.

THREE KILLED IN RAID ON BPR OFFICE IN CAPITAL

PA201539 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Text] At least three people were killed this afternoon in San Salvador when the authorities raided an office of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR]. A Salvadoran Armed Forces spokesman said the security forces confiscated a large number of handguns and subversive propaganda. A soldier was wounded during the clash which occurred when the leftists did not listen to the orders to permit a search of the office, the military spokesman added. Twenty-five BPR members were arrested in the military operation.

In another incident, one detective and two members of a leftist group were wounded when they exchanged gunfire inside the emergency room of the Rosales Hospital, the country's largest. The two presumed leftists went to the hospital to inquire about the condition of a wounded individual they had hospitalized on Tuesday night. A detective recognized them and the shooting began. Other reports said the leftists were the ones who recognized the detective and then attacked him.

The metropolitan cathedral and El Rosario Church in downtown San Salvador were occupied this afternoon by leftists.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS FACTORY CLOSED BY MILITARY

PA210109 San Salvador LA CRONICA DEL PUEBLO in Spanish 19 Mar 80 p 11 PA

[Text] Besides being taken over by members of the treasury police, the Texas Instruments factory will be definitely closed, according to information obtained by a reporter of this newspaper.

The factory's management, made up of U.S. citizens, adopted this decision Monday when over 1,500 workers of the plant called a strike in support of the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses. On that day, the factory was surrounded by combined army and police forces to counter the strike. As a result of this, a spokesman of the factory's workers union said many women fainted from nervousness. Some had to be admitted to the Salvadoran Social Security Institute Hospital.

The same union spokesman said the imperialist management of the factory cares little about the fate of over 2,500 persons who will be jobless as a result of the factory's closing.

The Texas Instruments factory is totally under military control and yesterday, the workers were greeted with the unpleasant surprise that the plant will be closed indefinitely.

The Labor Ministry has not yet adopted a position in relation to this new case. However, in the opinion of many workers, the state should nationalize the factory and turn it over to the workers either to manage it themselves or, as in the case of the farms confiscated during the agrarian reform, to continue working under state supervision.

'SUBVERSIVE GROUPS' BURN CARS 19 MAR

PA210105 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 80 p 13 PA

[Excerpts] Several automobiles were burned yesterday when subversive groups armed with submachineguns and pistols stopped cars at traffic lights and hurled Molotov cocktails at them.

Similar actions against innocent drivers were reported in other sectors of the capital. Shooting was also reported in several areas of the capital thereby spreading panic among the population.

A high-powered bomb was set off Tuesday evening at the garage of the residence of Eng Eduardo Castillo Urrutia, president of the National Aqueduct and Sewage Administration. A microbus and the windows of the house were considerably damaged.

EXTREMISTS CONTINUE TO PROVOKE DISORDERS

PA202029 San Salvador Radio Cedena YSU in Spanish 0600 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Extremist elements have continued to provoke disorders in downtown San Salvador in the last 24 hours.

Following the search conducted yesterday by the security corps at the headquarters of the Beverage Workers Union, several unidentified persons placed several urban buses across the capital's main roads. It was also reported that extremist elements provoked disturbances in other areas of the capital, such as the incident at Cuscatlan Avenue, where unidentified individuals tried to set fire to the small stores in the area. The extremists excaped when combined security and army forces appeared on the scene. Several shots were fired.

ROUNDUP OF LATEST VIOLENT INCIDENTS

PA210157 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0040 GMT 21 Mar 80 PA

[By Mauro Espinoza]

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--At least 17 people have perished in the last 24 hours in El Salvador in various activities, the authorities have reported.

In three localities in central San Vicente Department, security officers engaged in armed confrontations with guerrilla squads of the Peoples Liberation Forces (FPL) which resulted in the deaths of 11 guerrillas.

Nine of the terrorists died in Tecoluca, 67 km east of here, when, according to the authorities, a military patrol was ambushed by about 50 guerrillas. Another group of about 45 attacked another military contingent in El Coyolito, San Vicente; one terrorist was killed.

At El Perical, also near San Vicente, 60 km east of the capital, another leftwinger was killed by the military.

An armed forces spokesman did not report any casualties among the military patrols which were attacked but he did mention that a large amount of weapons and ammunition was impounded. The spokesman also reported that members of the leftwing Peoples Revolutionary Bloc and the Marxist 28 February Peoples Leagues set fire on Wednesday afternoon to the mayor's office in Talnique, 42 km southwest of San Salvador.

An alleged terrorist action in Santa Ana, 67 km west of the capital, left five dead and several injured, the authorities revealed. Reports indicate that a person who was well-known for his criminal record opened fire on a vehicle with several passengers aboard. The passengers fired back and the criminal was killed along with four other people.

In Corinto, 185 km east of San Salvador, the wife of a National Guardsman was killed by unidentified individuals, apparently members of a clandestine group.

It was also reported that a fire broke out at a clothing store in Mejicanos, on the northern outskirts of the capital. The fire was supposedly caused by six alleged terrorists.

The Salvadoran capital has been recently shaken by a series of violent incidents including the burning of state-owned and private vehicles and urban service buses. A telephone service truck was set on fire this afternoon by leftwingers in the northern section of the capital. There are constant reports of urban buses being placed in the middle of streets in various parts of the city to cut off traffic.

Many private cars have been stolen. It is presumed that most robberies are commited by terrorists who then use the vehicles for their activities. There were no incidents in San Salvador this morning during the funeral of several leftwingers who were killed in the past few days in armed clashes with the authorities.

KIDNAPED INDUSTRIALIST SUPPORTS ERP

PA210323 San Salvador EL INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 19 Mar 80 pp 1, 16, 11 PA

[Excerpts] "I am certain that with the discipline and price of the Peoples Revolutionary Army (ERP), it cannot fail."

"The revolution will be achieved and I am willing to support the ERP in any way I can so that social justice may definitely rule in El Salvador. They cannot fail. It is impossible for them to fail." This is part of the statement made by Jaime Hill Arguello to correspondent Mario Menendez, of EL EXCELSIOR of Mexico, during an interview in a "people's prison" in El Salvador.

"The revolutionary and democratic forces not only have the right, but also the duty to struggle for social justice. The triumph of the Salvadoran revolution is inevitable because reason assists the people and their guerrilla organizations."

Captivity appears to have considerably influenced Mr Hill Arguello, as he seems to give honest answers to Menendez' questions.

Asked about the perspectives of the Salvadoran revolution, Hill Arguello supposedly replied: "It has very good perspectives. I am certain that with the discipline and pride of the ERP the revolution cannot fail. The revolution will be achieved and I am willing to support the ERP in anything I can so that social justice may definitely rule in El Salvador. They cannot fail. It is impossible for them to fail.

OPPOSITION WARNS OF MERCENARY INVASION

PA201658 Paris AFP in Spanish 0342 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Mar (AFP)--While a U.S. House of Representatives commission studies in secret how to intervene in El Salvador, some 5,000 mercenaries from various countries train on a ranch owned by former Guatemalan president Mario Sandoval Alarcon, it was reported here today.

The above statement was made by members of the United Popular Action Front, 28 February Peoples Leagues, the Nationalist Democratic Union, and the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc during a news conference held here.

The members of these four political movements which have joined to form the Coordinating Board of the Masses of El Salvador, said that the mercenary force is made up of Guatemalans, Hondurans, former Nicaraguan national guardsmen and a lesser number of men from other countries.

They said that the ranch where they are training is located in San Jose Municipality, Jutiapa Department, bordering with El Salvador. They also said that U.S. intervention in Salvadoran domestic affairs is a proven fact and that 150 U.S. Marines entered El Salvador through La Libertad Port not long ago. They also said that another country is helping the government junta, which according to them is but a continuation of past dictatorships. That country is Israel which has sold aircraft and armament to the army and paramilitary forces. They also said that the Venezuelan Government is opposed to the Salvadoran people's movement and supports the military junta. It also sent a psychological warfare specialist.

The members of the Coordinating Board of the Masses said that the Salvadoran movement is ready to seize power by means of the people's forces, and that if imperialism intevenes to crush the revolutionary movement, it will find the people in arms.

They said that the military junta is completely alone and that proof of this was the national 24-hour strike which was supported by 80 percent of the workers in spite of repression and intimidation.

They said that the day of the people's armed insurrection is near since the government's reforms--bank nationalization and agrarian reform--are propaganda measures for foreign consumption, but that they will not benefit the great needy majorities.

NICARAGUA

FSLN SAYS NO ELECTION PLANNED IN NEAR FUTURE

PA210411 Paris AFP in Spanish 0316 GMT 21 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 20 Mar (AFP)--An official spokesman for the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) today dismissed the possibility of holding elections in Nicaragua in the short- or medium-term. He said that during the 1979 insurrection the Nicaraguan people elected us with their blood.

Guerrilla commander Rene Nunez made the statement as he officially responded on behalf of the FSLN to the demands made by the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) which on Sunday asked for the setting of a date to hold the elections.

Nunez said the organizer of the MDN, Alfonso Robelo, member of the government junta, still has time to think it over and correct the position he has assumed because it may significantly affect the unity of the revolution.

However, Commander Nunez just smiled and refused to make a direct comment when asked if it is possible that the FSLN will pressure Robelo to resign from the government junta if he continues with his political activities. We don't pressure; we just ask people to think things over, the Sandinist leader said.

It has been unofficially reported that the MDN plans to hold new rallies in the countryside and that it is receiving the support of business and industrial groups in several cities.

In its official reply to the MDN, the Sandinist Front said the party is trying to win the sympathies of several national sectors distorting the historical facts about the Sandinist revolution through a series of careless propaganda ploys.

The FSLN did not directly accuse the MDN of undermining the foundation of the revolution but it warned that Robelo's political movement might [words indistinct] other people.

ORTEGA RETURNS FROM ABROAD, NOTES ROBELO SPEECHES

PA200308 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2202 GMT 19 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--In Nicaragua "no one should be afraid to criticize the government," but they should not harm national unity, Comdr Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the junta of National Reconstruction, said today.

Returning from a tour of South America, Europe and the Caribbean, the Sandinist leader today commented on the recent speeches delivered by his colleague, Alfonso Robelo Callejas, another junta member.

Robelo Callejas, who turned his Nicaraguan Democratic Movement into a political part on Sunday, has emphasized that the Sandinist revolution "should be genuinely Nicaraguan and not follow alien patterns." He also talked about freedom of religion, of expression and of the press, as well as trade union freedom. Robelo Callejas' speeches have alluded to the national literacy campaign noting that it should not be used to teach reading and writing "in order to subjugate the underprivileged."

Commander Ortega Saavedra said Robelo Callejas' speeches are indicative of the freedom existing in Nicaragua. However, he warned that the freedom to criticize the government should not be misused so as not to endanger national unity or provide arguments "to international reactionaries. Criticism should be made respectfully, carefully and responsibly," the Nicaraguan leader said.

Commander Ortega Saavedra noted that during the recent trip abroad he was able to perceive the respect and prestige of the Nicaraguan revolution. "Nicaraguans are now welcomed anywhere in the world with respect and without ideological discrimination," he added. He reiterated that misguided criticism "might stop the flow of aid to Nicaragua."

"If anybody speaks about freedom of religion, for instance," he said, "that can lead to the belief there is religious persecution in Nicaragua while the fact is we not only permit the people to have their own religious principles but we are also willing to defend them." He said the same things might be thought abroad if requests are made for trade union freedom.

"In Nicaragua," he added, "the ones who need liberty are the peasants and workers who are experiencing the problems of unemployment, hunger, health, lack of housing and shoes, and even education in the case of illiterates."

He said "we have nothing against criticizing the government as long as it does not affect national unity and it is not perceived abroad that we are quibbling internally due to this criticism."

FORMER ROBELO SUPPORTER BREAKS WITH MDN

PA191608 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Emilio Rappaccioli, a former supporter of [junta member] Robelo has stated his disagreement with the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement [MDN].

Rappaccioli made surprising statements to this news program. This is not the moment for this type of activity, Rappaccioli said. He noted that the power aspirations of the MDN are not legitimate. A movement that does not represent the interests of our people--composed of the exploited classes--cannot be legitimate, he stated. Rappaccioli added: I cannot accept the idea of a party that wants the powerful classes to maintain their privileges reaching political power.

Rappaccioli was part of what was called the progressive group of the MDN. During the times of the imperialist mediation effort, he struggled to have the MDN abandon the broad opposition front and join the Patriotic Front. The Patriotic Front followed the line of the Sandinist National Liberation Front--which at that time was waging a clandestine struggle.

These surprising statements by Rappaccioli, general director of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute, serve to confirm the pro-business character of the MDN.

With these statements, Rappaccioli has practically broken with the MDN.

ROBELO'S MOVEMENT DESCRIBED AS 'DANGER TO REVOLUTION'

PA200403 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1752 GMT 19 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Carlos Nunez, commander of the Sandinist revolution, said here today the criticism and political positions outlined by government junta member Alfonso Robelo during an assembly of his party, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN), "are a danger to the revolution."

Robelo criticized the political content of the national literacy campaign and the Sandinist orientation of the army and proclaimed that his party's political ideals include respect for religion and legitimately obtained private property, ideological pluralism, a Nicaraguan socialism which does not copy other processes, and respect for the freedoms of man, especially freedom of the press.

Commander Nunez of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) feels that Robelo's movement is "among those which seek to make conflicts more acute in order to obtain greater strength with which to hinder the participation of the masses in the revolutionary transformations being carried out within the Nicaraguan process."

"This last," he added, "is the greatest danger that could be presented to a revolution that has a historical mission to fulfill, that was created and molded by the FSLN, around which other sectors rallied.

He then defined Sandinism as the "synthesis of the political-historical legacy of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino in conjunction with that which his sons, his followers, have created on the basis of the Sandinist struggle and thinking. [quotation mark as received]

In his opinion, Robelo's movement has an "eminently bourgeois" concept of freedom. "In line with this concept, the party is trying to oppose the changes begun by the revolution, on the basis of an analysis that seeks to give the same importance to the various sectors that participated in the overthrow of the dictatorship without taking into consideration the belligerent aspect of this revolution and the fact that it has taken place because it had a very important and decisive force on its side--our people," Nunez said.

Carlos Nunez said those groups are trying to use the media to continue alining and confusing the people and marketing propaganda as a policy for their own purposes and as the expression of a class.

With regard to the demand for an army that is "apolitical and that has the right to vote," the commander of the revolution said that "to propose to the members of the army that they be other than Sandinists is so absurd that anyone who does so would immediately be rejected."

Guerrilla Commander Dora Maria Tellez, who has "Commander Dos" during the attack on the Managua National Palace in 1978, also referred to the position of the MDN members. She did not call Robelo by name, but referred to an "elegant man."

"To go to the illiterate worker and peasant and tell them that they have been downtrodden, that they have been exploited, is not to domesticate them. Domestication would involve them being offered profits from an enterprise and labor freedom today by those who formerly offered them only a club, a gun butt and repression while shelving labor conventions and lists of demands," Commander Tellez said.

"Go tell these truths to our peasants and let us not have 'an elegant man' come to tell us that the intent is to domesticate or manipulate them," Dora Maria Tellez said yesterday to university literacy brigaders after a march of over 90 km from Leon to this capital. The war-hardened Sandinist leader urged the students to fulfill this commitment and to wage this struggle on behalf of the illiterate. She emphasized that "those individuals who yesterday closed their eyes to repression cannot be allowed to come now with eyes and ears wide open to practice demagoguery."

Danilo Aguirre Solis, president of the Union of Journalists of Nicaragua (UPN), replied to Robelo's call for authentic freedom of speech. "It is true that there is no freedom of speech here for the dominant group which always used it for its own benefit. That freedom is now the right of newsmen and the people. It was won in our unyielding struggle against tyranny," Aguirre said.

Father Fernando Cardenal, national coordinator of the literacy campaign, commented on the criticism of the MDN leader by saying that "the education campaign that we will wage in Nicaragua is based on the method of the famous teacher Pablo Freire." He added that Freire describes education in the capitalist countries as "banking education, in which the student becomes a container in which is deposited such knowledge as the exploiting classes want him to have to prevent him from knowing the truth." Father Cardenal added that this manner of dominating workers and peasants "in addition to being criminal, is immoral, because it is immoral for people to be prevented from knowing what is happening around them.

WORKERS UNION DENOUNCES MDN MANEUVERS

PA1900l4 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Communique issued by the Julio Martinez Single Workers Union in Managua--date not given]

[Text] 1. The Julio Martinez Single Workers Union strongly criticizes the opportunism and demagoguery of the millionaire merchants, industrialists, farmers and cattlemen who, organized under the Nicaraguan Development Institute (INDE) and the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), as business organizations and under the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) as political organization, are trying to distort, neutralize and intervene in the foundations of the Sandinist people's revolution and are also promoting a revision of Sandino's ideals for the sole purpose of seizing control of the transformation process being carried out by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

2. We recognize only the FSLN as the vanguard and we definitely support its government programs. We also express our solidarity with all mass organizations identified and implementing the work programs established by our vanguard in an effort to have a just and equitable society.

3. We urge all workers and peasants organizations to publicly denounce the political opportunism of the millionaires, who own the country's production centers, and who are trying to maintain in our country under the same conditions of domination and exploitation of the Nicaraguan workers, so that they can keep for themselves the privileges they enjoyed during the bloody Somozist dictatorship.

No to the maneuvers of the local bourgeoisie. No to the political pretensions of the MDN.

Yes to FSLN work programs. Yes to the Sandinist literacy campaign.

Free fatherland or death.

[Signed] Sergio Herrera Somarriba, secretary general of the National Executive Committee of the Julio Martinez Single Workers Union.

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COMMANDER TELLEZ COMMENTS ON MDN RALLY 16 MAR

PA191601 Managua Radio Mundial in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Statements by Comdr Dora Maria Tellez on the political meeting held Sunday 16 March by the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement--recorded]

[Excerpt] We think the literacy campaign is an (?essential) aspect of the liberating education proposed by the Sandinist Front in its program. It is a liberating education because in the first place, (?teachers will be) teaching the history of our country [words indistinct]. The phenomenon of exploitation will also be taught. [word indistinct] the political, economic and social reality that has directly contributed to the gradual and increasingly forceful achievement of that economic liberation.

One of the things I have noticed about Companero Robelo's speech is his sense of history. There are certain things that cannot be erased from history, such as the fact that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] fought the dictatorship for 20 years. This is no mere historical coincidence but is a part of our country's development and history [word indistinct].

At the meeting, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement [MDN] was described as a decisive force. We think that rather than a decisive force, the MDN was a force that inserted itself within the framework of the revolution on the basis of FSLN ideas.

Another thing that attracted my attention yesterday was the fact that the FSLN was not mentioned anywhere. I think this was a distortion of history, but I do not think this was mere coincidence either.

I also noticed and would like to mention here the fact that (?there was booing) that day when the red and black flag was hoisted. I think this sort of thing can only be done by elements opposed to the country's liberation, for the red and black flag is the symbol of that liberation. There is no other explanation.

The red and black flag is a symbol of the [word indistinct] liberation, a symbol of our country's historic liberation achieved on 19 July. [Word indistinct] individuals who label themselves revolutionaries would boo the flag that [words indistinct] thousands of companeros died. This was disrespectful and showed a lack of revolutionary awareness and of knowledge and acceptance of our country's historic realities. It also shows a lack of vision as to what Sandinism has meant here and as to their role in this historic process as members of the private sector.

BRIEFS

STUDENTS TO LEAVE FOR CUBA--Some 260 young Nicaraguans, from 10 to 17 years of age, are receiving 10 days of training before leaving for Cuba where they will study high school courses. A similar contingent from Managua Department is going to join this group. Along with them, six Nicaraguan social studies teachers will also receive training. They are going to teach Nicaraguan history and geography. Some of the students who are going to Cuba are youths who fought in the Sandinist Army during the struggle against the Somoza tyranny. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 80]

CASTRO, DOS SANTOS SPEAK ON ISLE OF YOUTH

FL201306 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 20 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Cuban councils of State and Ministers President Commander in Chief Fidel Castro yesterday afternoon visited the President Agostinho Neto Basic Secondary Farm School [ESBEC] on the Isle of Youth. Amid the ovations by hundreds of students from Angola and other fraternal countries, who attend school in Cuba, the president of the MPLA-Labor Party and the first secretary of the PCC were accorded a warm welcome. Fidel and Dos Santos visited the center's classrooms and observed the type of education the Angolan students receive in our fatherland. Subsequently, a rally was held during which the two leaders made speeches.

President Dos Santos expressed joy and satisfaction for the opportunity to visit Cuba and especially that school and conveyed to the students warm greetings from the Angolan people, their party and government. Dos Santos recalled that the MPLA-Labor Party and his country had entrusted to the Angolan students in Cuba the task of studying and preparing to better serve the revolution. In his speech, the Angolan president expressed gratitude for the solidarity offered by the socialist community's countries to the People's Republic of Angola and stressed the important role played by Cuba's internationalist aid in the defense, security and national reconstruction of his country. Later on, he spoke about his visit to our fatherland and affirmed: [Begin Dos Santos recording in Portuguese] We are very pleased with the results we have achieved on this visit. We are absolutely convinced that this visit will further strengthen our cooperation at the level of our parties--the Labor Party and the PCC--and at the state level through stronger ties of cooperation and the most varied means of economic and social activities in our countries. [end recording]

In his speech at the Agostinho Neto ESBEC, our commander in chief referred to the great leader of the Angolan revolution. He said that for the world progressive and revolutionary movement and for the Angolan people Neto's death was a tragic blow, an enormous loss which deprived the country, whose independence had been recently gained, of the chief who had initiated the struggle and led his people to victory. [Begin Castro recording] This was a very difficult test. Nevertheless, Angola's people, party and government, demonstrating great strength, maturity and intelligence, faced up to this terrible difficulty and selected a worthy successor to President Agostinho Neto, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos. [applause] [end recording]

Fidel noted the importance of President Dos Santos' visit to Cuba and asserted: [Begin Castro recording] as he has stated here today, this visit is of great importance for the Angolan and Cuban people's relations. A magnificent atmosphere of friendship, confidence and camaraderie has reigned over the meeting between the Angolan and Cuban representatives. We can add that in all aspects there has been strong and absolute agreement in viewpoints.

Thus, we can say that today's Angolan-Cuban relations are better than ever before. [applause] Our ties are stronger than ever before. [applause] Our two peoples will continue to cooperate very closely in all fields. [end recording] Our commander in chief expressed optimism in Angola's future despite the aggressions, threats and maneuvers of the imperialists, racists and counterrevolutionaries. He added: [Begin Castro recording] In this manner Angola thrives, succeeds and advances. Angola's victory will be absolutely certain. [applause] And our people will continue to work side by side with the Angolans, will continue to express their solidarity and will continue to support the Angolan people, the MPLA and their leadership and their President Jose Eduardo dos Santos [applause] in the same manner that we supported, with absolute and infinite loyalty, the beloved President Agostinho Neto. [end recording] Elsewhere in his speech our commander in chief referred to the foreign students attending school in our country.

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He noted that they are excellent students, excellent workers, intelligent, well-disciplined and exemplary. He stated that our country feels very proud and happy about the success of these schools and noted that this experience is unique in the world. Our commander in chief recalled that the love of fatherland and peoples' traditions are ever-present in these schools. He also said that he agrees with President Dos Santos that they should be better students so that they may become better revolutionaries.

In closing he said: [begin Castro recording] We join that conviction and wish to express to you our absolute certainty that the African students will continue to distinguish themselves increasingly more in study, discipline, work and revolutionary awareness, because that will be the path of struggle and work for the future of the peoples you represent, for mankind's future, for the victory of fraternity and equality among men, because with your revolution, with your behavior, with your intelligence, you are demonstrating to colonialism, imperialism and racism who the African peoples really are. Thank you very much. Fatherland or death. We shall win! [prolonged applause] [end recording]

Our commander in chief and the Angolan president made an extensive tour of places of interest on the Isle of Youth which included visits to the former Modelo Prison and the Carlos Fonseca Amador and the Henry (Witwuy) ESBFCS where Nicaraguan and Namibian youths attend school, respectively. Throughout the tour of that special municipality, the residents of the island accorded an enthusiastic welcome to Fidel and Dos Santos as a demonstration of the indestructible friendship existing between the Cuban and Angolan peoples.

RISQUET MEETS WITH ANGOLAN CONSTRUCTION MINISTER

FL202209 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 20 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the party Central Committee Secretariat, today met with Horacio Braz da Silva, minister of construction and housing of the People's Republic of Angola. Braz da Silva came to Cuba as a member of the high-level delegation headed by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and Angola. During the meeting, Risquet and Braz da Silva discussed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two nations and particularly cooperation in the area of construction as well as prospects in that field. Also at the meeting were Jose Lopez Moreno, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of construction, and Levi Farah, minister of government in charge of construction abroad.

GOVERNMENT REPRESSION IN EL SALVADOR CONDEMNED

PA210409 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

["Our America" feature]

[Text] The Salvadoran military-Christian Democratic regime has again shown its clearly fascist nature by repressing with merciless violence the 24-hour general strike sponsored by the National Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses which paralyzed productive activities throughout the country, and most notably in the capital, last Monday. The toll of the actions taken by the Salvadoran repressive corps against the striking workers at their jobsites includes more than 50 dead and hundreds injured and arrested.

The paramilitary gangsters who backed the army and the police in this new massacre ordered by the government junta were particularly sanguinary. Both in San Salvador and in nearby Mejicanos, Cuscatancingo, San Marcos and San Martin, the people had to erect barricades to cope with the brutal onslaught of the military who even used tanks in a useless effort to thwart last Monday's strike.

The 24-hour strike, which as we said brought the national economy to a halt, was called by the National Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses to condemn the genocidal repression against the people, repudiate the growing intervention of U.S. imperialism in El Salvador and censor the small group of Christian Democratic leaders who by remaining in the government want to give the government a civilian aspect which it does not really have. Through their determined participation in the strike, the fighting Salvadoran people evinced their repudiation of the bloody repression imposed by the regime and the complicity of the small group of collaborationist Christian Democratic politicians in bloody and genocidal incidents. By the same token, the Salvadoran people evinced their rejection of the interventionist escalation of the United States in this Central American country.

This new massacre perpetrated by the regime against the Salvadoran people once again confirms the scandalous fraud involved in the widely propagandized reforms promulgated by the government junta, along with the imposition of the state of siege and the suppression of constitutional guarantees. No one can believe in those reforms, which are supposedly for the benefit of the majority, because their implementation has been accompanied by a series of killings of workers, peasants and students. Reforms supported by Washington cannot elicit any confidence because it is very clear to the people of our America that the United States is their main enemy.

The Salvadoran people are fighting against their internal and international oppressors with heroic courage but the revolutionary, progressive and democratic forces of the world, and especially those of our hemisphere, cannot just stand by watching that confrontation or leave the Salvadoran brothers at this crucial time to their uneven struggle against the repressive corps, heavily armed, trained and supported in every way by Yankee imperialism. It is necessary to give firm support to the patriotic Salvadoran forces and cooperate actively in the preparation of the international conference of solidarity with that fraternal nation which will be held soon in a nation of our America.

International and Latin American solidarity was of great importance to the victory of the people's revolution in Nicaragua. Now too, we have to provide solidarity by making a firm contribution to the victory of the fighting people of Agustin Farabundo Marti.

USSR PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER VISITS HOSPITAL

FL201027 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Academician Boris Petrovskiy, USSR public health minister and deputy to the Supreme Soviet, has visited the psychiatric hospital and the Palace of Conventions, where he was received by their directors, Bernabe Ordaz and (Abraham Massip). Dr Petrovskiy departed for his country after a 10-day visit to our country during which he signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with the Public Health Ministry and donated medical equipment and literature to Cuba. While in our country he was accompanied by Sergio del Valle, member of the PCC Politburo and public health minister.

BRIEFS

NAMIBIAN DELEGATION--Haydee Santamaria, member of the party Central Committee and president of the Casa de las Americas, has received a Namibian delegation that is visiting Cuba. The delegation consists of (Riunsa Kakunga), member of the Central Committee Politburo and secretary of administrative affairs of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), and (Linekela Kalenga), member of the SWAPO Central Committee and secretary of education and culture. Views were exchanged at the friendly meeting. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 20 Mar 80 FL]

NEED FOR CARICOM LEADERS' SUMMIT STRESSED

FL201544 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Dominica's deputy prime minister, Michael Douglas, says the failure of the CARICOM heads of government to meet for almost 5 years now has strangled the whole process of deepening the regional integration movement. Mr Douglas said a series of crucial issues needed the immediate attention of the Carribean leaders, including the question of ideological plurality in the region which he said required urgent clarification.

The Dominican minister identified CARICOM proposals to establish a regional balance of payments stabilization fund as another key issue to be discussed and decided upon by the heads of government. A report from CARICOM officials looking at the establishment of such a fund is going before the 16th CARICOM Council of Ministers meeting in Georgetown, Guyana next week and Mr Douglas has labeled this issue as the most important item for the conference

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GUZMAN SAYS COLOMBIA ALONE CAN SOLVE EMBASSY CRISIS

PA201740 Paris AFP in Spanish 1635 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 20 Mar (AFP)--Dominican President Antonio Guzman has said that the Colombian Government is moved by the most humane feelings in its search for a solution to the problem of the occupation of the Dominican Embassy in Bogota by a guerrilla group.

Regarding the Colombian authorities' position on the 19 April Movement (M-19) guerrillas' demands, President Guzman said the Colombian Government is the one which has to solve events which occur inside its territory. We believe, he said, that the Colombian Government is moved by the most noble feelings in its efforts to solve the situation. Guzman said he is sure that the Colombian authorities will continue to consider these feelings in its efforts to solve this big problem which has dismayed the entire world.

The president said he had discussed the situation with Dominican Ambassador Antonio Garcia Vasquez who arrived in the country last week for consultations with the Foreign Ministry. However, Guzman said, we cannot solve anything or say anything about what is occurring in Colombia. Garcia Vasquez, ambassador to Peru, was assigned to Bogota as a result of the occupation of the Dominican Embassy in Bogota when a reception to celebrate the 136th anniversary of the country's independence was being held. President Guzman said he spoke with the diplomat on the situation, but he insisted in reiterating that the Colombian authorities are the ones who obviously must do whatever is advisable.

JAMAICA

CUBAN DOCTORS INVOLVED IN WORKERS' COMPLAINT

FL202259 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 20 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Four domestic workers attached to the residence of Cuban doctors at Unity Hall in St James have been transferred to the Cornwall Regional Hospital.

The [word indistinct] information was contained in a letter from the administrator of the hospital to the BITU [Bustamante Industrial Trades Union] which represents the workers. The letter notes that the workers had been transferred to the staff quarters at Cornwall regional. Last Friday the BITU gave an ultimatum to the hospital for the workers to be removed from the Unity Hall residence of the Cuban doctors. The BITU said that the ultimatum had come in the wake of reports from the domestic workers of threats of violence and harassment from the doctors. The union also cited an incident last week where a worker was allegedly threatened with a gun. However, the chairman of the board of Cornwall regional, (W. Cathen), later said that the head of the hospital's Cuban team, Dr Falcon, had explained that the issue was a joke and a misunderstanding.

GRENADIAN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TEACHERS' UNION CONGRESS

FL202107 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 20 Mar 80 FL

[Excerpt] Grenada's Minister of Education and Youth George Louison arrived in the island a short while ago. Louison is here to participate in the activities of the second congress of the National Union of Democratic Teachers. This afternoon the Grenadian minister will be visiting the Jamaica School of Agriculture and the Jose Marti secondary school. At the JSA, he is expected to address members of the staff and students.

MARTINIQUE

'ALARM' OVER UPCOMING VISIT OF U.S. WARSHIP REPORTED

FL202122 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 20 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Reports from Martinique say the proposed visit of a U.S. warship to the island has added a new element of alarm to the social unrest in the so-called French Overseas Departments. The American warship decked with 400 marines is to arrive in Fort-de-France next Tuesday on a tour of duty in the Caribbean zone.

Observers feel the surprise visit of the U.S. warship is a demonstration of the U.S. (?support for) its French ally in the face of the growing discontent in this French colony. A report from PRENSA LATINA news service quoted the U.S. Consulate in Martinique as saying that the ships's tour of duty demonstrated the commitment and interest of the U.S. Government in the Caribbean as well as upholding the peace and freedom of the seas.

ST KITTS-NEVIS

GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO TOURISM INDUSTRY

FL202129 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 20 Mar 80 FL

[Text] The month-old St Kitts-Nevis Government has reaffirmed its commitment to the development and expansion of tourism which already plays a major role in the economies of many Caribbean countries. In an address to the local hotel association, the St Kitts-Nevis tourism minister, Michael Powell, said tourism must become a vital industry and that there was a great need to pool human resources for closer cooperation.

The minister also said a goal in dynamic drives in both the North American and European markets were necessary. At the meeting, a number of committees were established to deal with the problems being experienced by the St Kitts-Nevis tourism sector.